

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00977 111053Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ICA-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SS-15 /054 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0383
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC TGEN CH US
SUBJ: INFORMAL US-PRC EXCHANGES

REF: PEKING 953

1. WE HAVE HEARD INDIRECTLY FROM CHANG WEI, VICE CHAIRMAN OF TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY (THROUGH HERB KLEIN, FORMER WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY) AND DIRECTLY FROM LI MING-TE OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES THAT THE CAS HOPES TO EXPAND ITS SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WITH THE US THROUGH INVITATIONS TO DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND MEETINGS HELD BY UNIVERSITIES AND SPECIALIZED LABORATORIES AND THEN STAY ON FOR WEEKS OR MONTHS. LI SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMED THAT THE TWO-MONTH VISIT TO THE FERMI LABORATORY OF A HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS DELEGATION IS A "PRIVATE" EXCHANGE OF THIS TYPE, ARRANGED THROUGH A MEMBER OF THE 1974 US HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS DELEGATION TO CHINA. KLEIN'S UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GROUP IS TRYING TO ARRANGE A SIMILAR PROGRAM, AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT DOZENS OF OTHER US INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE GLAD TO INVITE CHINESE SCIENTIFIC DELEGATIONS. THIS TYPE OF EXCHANGE WOULD BYPASS THE SPONSORED EXCHANGE PROGRAM, LEAVING THE CSC WITH A STATIC OR DWINDLING PROGRAM.

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2. WE FEEL THAT THESE "PRIVATE" EXCHANGES ARE IN OUR LONG-TERM INTEREST, EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD BYPASS OFFICIAL CHANNELS AND REDUCE THE ROLE OF THE USG TO ONE OF MERELY ISSUING VISAS. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, TRY TO MAINTAIN SOME ELEMENT OF RECIPROCITY. WE PROPOSE THAT WE TAKE OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF THIS

NEW TYPE OF EXCHANGE BY TELLING THE PRC THAT WE
WISH TO ENCOURAGE THIS TYPE OF EXCHANGE AND THAT
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS SPEND TIME
IN THE PRC ON A SIMILAR BASIS.
WOODCOCK

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